

SB 132 TESTIMONY

Mor.16, 2015

A. Intro

1. Dr. name
2. Background – 42 years, 12yrs on SLA Brd., 5 yrs - UM Clinical Sup., 8yrs
ES, Privat practice

B. Prob. hist - ASHA

1. HA sales “unethical”
2. 1979 “OK” Now considered rehab
3. Auds were not trained at that time in HA fitting
4. Required HAD lic. (I testified for it) - nationally
5. Trng. progs began training in HA fitting

C. Now 30 yrs. Later –

1. Auds only MT Prof. required to have 2 lic
 - a. Dent.- Dent asst. ; Optom - Optician
2. Present HAD requirements
 - a. High sch deploma
 - b. Good character
 - c. Pass Dept. exams
 - d. Free of communicable diseases
 - e. 10 CEUs / yr
3. Aud require
 - a. (pre 2005) – Masters deg
 1. 1 yr. supervision
 - b. (Post “) – Doc. Of Aud
 1. 8 yrs formal education
 2. Supervised Internal & external rotations
 3. 40 CEUs / 2 yrs
 4. Fully trained

1. All aud Nat. prof orgs – now include “selling and dispensing” Has within their “scope/standard of practice”
2. 35 states have dropped the dual license requirement
3. AuDs now pay \$100 for SLP lic. And \$450-\$650 / yr HAD
 - a. \$16K /yr for HAD
 - b. \$300 to400K+- over 30+ yrs.
4. 2006 – 2011 complaints
 - a. Auds – 3 (2 dismissed)
 - b. HADs – 211

Summary – current situation:

- A. Public cannot tell the diff
- B. Dual lic. Is unnecessary DOES NOT “improve public health and safety”
- C. Opposition testimony “Auds are not trained or supervised”
 - a. Our own license requirements
 - b. Attend the same HA industry training as HADs
- D. Discriminates against a profession

Letters of support (35)



Helen Hallenbeck, AuD
President/Board Certified Audiologist

Larry Wundrow, M.S., CCC-A
Audiologist

Jennifer Hartze, AuD
Audiologist

Honorable David Howard, Chair
Human Services Committee

Dear Mr. Howard,

Before you is **SB132** that will permit audiologists to dispense hearing aids without the necessity of a Hearing Aid Dispenser license. Please accept this letter as support of this bill. The requirement of a second license for an Audiologist is tantamount to double taxation and the practice should be discontinued. Optometrists do not need to be licensed as opticians. Dentists do not need to be licensed as Dental Hygienists. Podiatrists do not need to be licensed to clean and manicure feet.

The MINIMUM educational requirement to practice Audiology is a Doctoral degree; there are no longer existing university programs for a Master's level Audiology degree. Audiologists must also meet ongoing continuing education requirements in order to maintain licensure and certification. Upon graduating from University, Audiologists are required to obtain at least 80 (graduate) semester hours of coursework within the field and, prior to graduation, must complete a 48-week externship. This requirement far exceeds that of the hearing aid dispenser. The Hearing Aid Dispenser needs no formal education and only 1000 hours of "on-site, supervised observation and experience".

As a Montana business owner and Board Certified Audiologist, the dual-licensure practice places an undue burden on me and my associates and confuses the consumer by obfuscating the professional and education lines between the Hearing Aid Dealer and Audiologist.

Please support SB132.

Sincerely,

Helen F. Hallenbeck, AuD
Board Certified Audiologist



Darrell Micken <darrell.micken@gmail.com>

SB132

1 message

Sue Toth <suet8589@aol.com>

Wed, Mar 16, 2011 at 10:16 AM

To: Elliehillhd94@gmail.com

Please support SB 132, which allows audiologists to sell hearing aids without a hearing aid dispenser license.

Key points:

1. Audiologists hold a **MINIMUM** of a Master's degree in the field of hearing diagnostics and rehabilitation (including extensive studies in hearing instrument sciences and hearing aid fitting). **ALL NEW GRADUATING AUDIOLOGISTS HOLD A DOCTORATE IN AUDIOLOGY.** To become a hearing aid dispenser, a high school degree and passing a test are required.
2. Audiologists are required to obtain a minimum of 25 Continuing Education Units (hours) every two years to maintain state licensure as an audiologist. (Hearing aid dispensers are required to obtain 10 continuing education units per year.)
3. Audiologists are required to follow a code of ethics established by the American Speech and Hearing Association.

Thank you!

Sue Toth, M.A., Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology and Speech/Language Pathology conferred by the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association.

26 Harmony Circle Court
Missoula, MT 59802

Dawn Young, Au.D.
1008 North 7th Ave Suite H
Bozeman MT 59718
March 14, 2011

Chairman David Howard

Dear Chairman Howard:

I am so honored to get the opportunity to speak on this matter.

In opposing testimony it states that the bill does not require audiologists to attain specialized education or pass an examination in hearing instrument sciences to determine competency. All doctoral level programs must go through a rigorous accreditation process by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA). In order to be considered an accredited doctoral level Audiology program they must provide evidence of a curriculum that allows students to achieve the knowledge and skill listed below: (minimal requirements):

- Instruction in treatment of individuals with auditory, balance, and related communication disorders must include opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to:
 - Perform hearing aid, assistive listening devices, and sensory aid assessment
 - Recommend, dispense, and service prosthetic and assistive devices
 - Provide hearing aid, assistive listening device, and sensory aid orientation
 - Conduct audiologic rehabilitation.
- The doctoral curriculum in audiology must include a minimum of 12 months' full-time equivalent of supervised clinical experience. Clinical experiences must constitute at least 25% of the program length

Also for ASHA certification as well as state licensure in audiology the Praxis is a requirement. The Praxis covers the following topics and was developed by audiologists:

- Evaluation of disability/handicap interpretation of findings
 - Selection of appropriate instruments and procedures
- Hearing aid selection, fit, and verification
 - Criteria for candidacy
 - Differences in performance of various types
 - Effects of modifications on performance
 - Measurement procedures
- Rehabilitative Technology
 - Hearing aid instruments

- Function of hearing aid components
- Measures of hearing aid performance
- Performance characteristics of various circuits

As you can see there are checks and balances to ensure that an audiologist is competent in areas pertaining to hearing instrument sciences.

The second claim is that dispensing audiologists do not have requirements for obtaining continuing education in hearing instrument sciences. This is not the case. A licensed audiologist is required through their state licensure to obtain 40 hours every odd year. On top of that many audiology organizations also require certain number of continuing education credits. Although there is a broad range of courses available, if you are dispensing hearing aids why would you take a class on something that is not pertinent to what you are doing.

The last claim is that audiologists could bypass the "rigorous consumer protection requirements" set forth by the International Hearing Society and Montana Hearing Society if this bill were to pass. Obviously obtaining a dispenser's license is not the only way to hold an audiologist accountable. There is the audiologist license that has a complaint process and sets forth acceptable practice standards. There are also a plethora of audiology organizations that are widely utilized, and each includes their own set of ethics. There are complaint processes, the risk of losing your license to practice (audiologist license), lose membership in an organization alerting your peers to you indiscretions. There is also word of mouth through the community and the Better Business Bureau.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring this information to your attention. If I can answer any additional questions for you please feel free to let me know.

Warm Regards,

Dawn Young
Doctor of Audiology
Helton Hearing Care

February 5, 2011

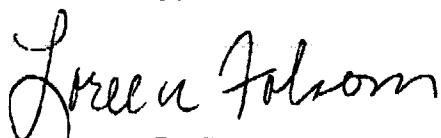
Dear Montana House Committee member:

I am writing in support of SB 132, which will remove the requirement for Montana audiologists to hold a hearing aid license to sell and dispense hearing aids in Montana.

I request that you vote for this measure when it comes before your committee.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Loreen C. Folsom". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Loreen C. Folsom, MSPA/CCC-ASHA
Speech Pathologist

March 8, 2011

Committee Members
(H) Public Health, Welfare and Safety

RE: SB 132

Good Afternoon Representatives. I am Dr. Pat Ingalls, and I urge you to support SB 132, which will allow audiologists to dispense hearing aids under their audiology license. I grew up in Bozeman in a ranching family, obtained my BA from Washington State University, MS from University of New Mexico and Au.D. from the Arizona School of Health Sciences. I was fortunate enough to find an audiology position in Montana after completing my MS degree, and have been practicing in Butte for the past 30 years.

The field of Audiology is fairly new on the scene. The term audiology was first introduced in the 1940's. It did not come into general use until 1945 when after WW II the returning soldiers complained of hearing loss. Although there were hearing aid companies and dispensers on the scene at the time, these returning soldiers prompted the scientific research that is the basis for our field today.

I spoke at the Butte Dentists group a year or two ago, and after the presentation one dentist said that the field of audiology was where the field of dentistry had been 100 years ago – finding its way to becoming a fully appreciated specialty on its own. When dentistry was starting to develop into its own field, physicians were in opposition. It is now a fully realized profession. There are several dental specialties, such as orthodontics, periodontics, endodontics, pediatrics and others. They all hold one identical license - from the Montana Board of Dentistry. Their Board and individual professional organizations are responsible for determining the necessary education and requirements enabling them to list themselves as a specialist.

Audiology is following the same pathway. When I started practicing thirty years ago, I had my Master's degree with just minimal training in hearing aids, and a separate license was appropriate. That is no longer the case. There are no universities in the US that offer a masters degree in Audiology – the minimum degree to practice is now the Au.D., a professional doctorate in Audiology. The average student graduates with a student debt of \$90,000, compared to \$108,000 for optometrists and \$82,000 for dentists. Everyone with this degree receives significant training in hearing aids. Many specialties are developing within audiology. There are audiologists who only map or program cochlear implants, and others who are only found in the operating room with the neurosurgeon doing intra-operative monitoring. There are others who just do vestibular testing and diagnostic work, and others who do everything, including working with hearing aids. We do not need separate boards with separate licenses for all of these specialties. We just need one license – our MT audiology license. Thank you.

Patricia M. Ingalls, Au.D.
Audiologist



WILL HELTON, AU.D., FAAA, CCC-A

1008 N. 7TH AVE. STE.H, BOZEMAN, MT 59715 ♦ TEL: 406-586-0914 ♦ FAX: 406-586-6667

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January 18, 2011

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Dear Montana Legislators,

Please support SB 132.

As a doctor of audiology I have ten years of college education in the fields of Speech Pathology, Audiology, and Linguistics. Many of the classes at the Master's and Doctoral level involve aural rehabilitation, effects of hearing on language perception, and auditory processing associated with the testing, fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments. I have also completed over three years of internships and a residency under the supervision of other doctors of audiology. Master's level audiologists have completed at least six years of college and a 9 month residency.

There is also a growing trend in our field to become Board Certified by the American Board of Audiology. Board Certification represents an even greater commitment to professionalism and ethical conduct. Requirements for Board Certification include passing a national examination and the completion of three times the number of advanced continuing education hours required by most states to maintain audiological licensure.

Additionally, Montana audiologists already maintain their own Board for self-regulation of education, training, and ethical practice.

In short, audiologists have far more education and training than hearing aid dispensers, diagnose and treat a much wider variety of patients' ills and are already regulated by an appropriate governing board in Montana. As there are no other doctors who fall under the jurisdiction of governing boards with lesser standards, I believe it is unfair that audiologists have such a requirement. I urge you again to support SB 132.

Sincerely,

Will Helton, Au.D., FAAA, CCC-A

Board Certified Doctor of Audiology



The University of
Montana

Phyllis J. Washington
College of Education and Human Sciences
Communicative Sciences and Disorders
RiteCare Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic
634 Eddy Ave
Missoula, MT 59812-6695
406 243-2405 Clinic 406 243-2363 Academic

The University of Montana program in Communicative Sciences and Disorders (Speech-Language Pathology) was reestablished in 2007 with legislative efforts by Senator Dave Wanzenreid. The University program was closed in 1988 because of financial problems. I became the first Chair of the new program in Communicative Sciences and Disorders in 2007 and the program now provides graduates with bachelors and masters degrees in speech,-language pathology for the State of Montana.

I am also licensed in Montana and certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association to provide audiological services. I am an audiologist.

I have been an audiologist for over 35 years and have participated in education, research and governance in the profession of Audiology.

State of Montana Bill SB-132

"AN ACT PROVIDING THAT A LICENSED AUDIOLOGIST SELLING, DISPENSING, OR FITTING HEARING AIDS IS NOT SUBJECT TO LICENSURE AS A HEARING AID DISPENSER; GRANTING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY TO THE BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 37-15-102, 37-15-103, 37-16-103, 8 37-16-401, AND 37-16-405, MCA."

The passage of this bill is clearly and unambiguously in the best interests of the State of Montana. The entry requirements for the state of Montana and nearly every other state require that licensed audiologists possess a Doctor of Audiology (AuD). A rigorous part of the training of audiologists includes the fitting of hearing aids and the completion of the AuD requires high proficiency in all areas of hearing aid practice.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Al Yonovitz, PhD, CCC-A, Licensure Montana
Professor of Audiology



Leah Jacobsen, Au.D.
Doctor of Audiology
Prescription Design H.A.C., Inc.
825 8th Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59406
(406) 761-0611

January 17, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am president of the Montana Audiology Guild (MAG), which is affiliated with the Montana Speech and Hearing Association (MSHA). During our annual MAG conference in May 2010, the members of MAG discussed changing the statute for Audiologists in the state of Montana to separate from the Hearing Aid Dispensers for several reasons. MAG unanimously voted to proceed with the proposed change, which "removes the requirement for audiologists to have a Hearing Aid Dispensers license to sell hearing aids in the state of Montana." The bill is titled SB132.

As President of MAG, I also serve as a member at large on the MSHA board. Each year, MSHA holds their fall conference and the MSHA business meeting. MAG presented the proposal of SB132 to the MSHA board during the fall conference in October 2010. The MSHA board voted unanimously to support bill SB132.

Thank you,

Dr. Leah Jacobsen
President of Montana Audiology Guild



Darrell Micken <darrell.micken@gmail.com>

Support of SB 132

1 message

M.Dixon <mmdix@bresnan.net>

Fri, Jan 14, 2011 at 9:57 AM

To: darrell.micken@gmail.com

Cc: HLawrie@stpetes.org

Dear Dr. Micken:

I am writing in support of SB 132 that would eliminate the need for licensed audiologists in Montana to purchase a hearing aid dispensing license. The training for an audiologist thoroughly includes fitting, programming and dispensing hearing aids. In fact, they are the most qualified when it comes to fitting hearing aids and also indentifying medical issues for patients. To have a very expensive and redundant additional license serves no purpose and is an unnecessary financial burden. There has been a substantial increase in this particular fee and it is also separate and additional to the audiologist license fee required.

Given the required audiology license and the thorough hearing aid fitting and dispensing education encompassed in an audiology degree, I see no reason for this redundant and expensive additional licensure.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Dixon, M.D.

B.C. Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery



Darrell Micken <darrell.micken@gmail.com>

Thank you!

2 messages

Tim and Mary Callahan <sti4211@blackfoot.net>
To: jessmann@mt.gov
Cc: Darrell Micken <darrell.micken@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 17, 2011 at 8:51 PM

Dear Senator Jeff Essmann ,

Thank you for introducing and supporting SB132. The Montana Audiology Guild (MAG) and the Montana Speech and Hearing Association (MSHA) membership unanimously voted to support this bill. It has been needed for quite some time. Your effort in supporting the audiologists of Montana is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Mary Callahan

1020 MSHA President

Darrell Micken <darrell.micken@gmail.com>
To: Tim and Mary Callahan <sti4211@blackfoot.net>

Mon, Jan 17, 2011 at 10:22 PM

Mary, Thank you very much and very nice.
Darrell

[Quoted text hidden]



Darrell Micken <darrell.micken@gmail.com>

SB 132

JGreen@stpetes.org <JGreen@stpetes.org>

Fri, Jan 14, 2011 at 2:10 PM

To: darrell.micken@gmail.com

Cc: HLawrie@stpetes.org, Senior_Management_Team@stpetes.org

Mr. Micken - I would like to offer my support for SB 132 which would eliminate the need for licensed audiologists to hold hearing aid dispensing license. Audiologists are qualified to fit and dispense hearing aids and having a separate license is unnecessary. It is also a large cost for an audiologist to bear, one that is higher than all other professional licenses. I appreciate your assistance in getting this fee discontinued.

John Green
Vice President - Finance
St. Peter's Hospital
2475 Broadway
Helena, MT 59601

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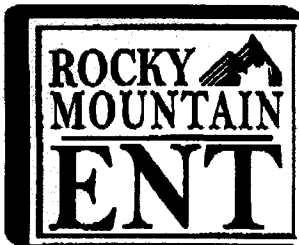
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Formula: Cash on Hand/Income

A

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& Throat Center, P.C.

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Daniel E. Braby, M.D.
Head & Neck Surgery
Pediatric Otolaryngology

Phillip A. Gardner, M.D.
Head & Neck Surgery
Pediatric Otolaryngology

Jeffrey R. Haller, M.D.
Head & Neck Surgical
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Peter G. Von Doersten, M.D.
Board Certified Neurotology
Skull-Base Surgery
Treatment & Surgery of
Ear Disease

Josh B. Moser, PA-C
Physician Assistant

Rocky Mountain Hearing & Balance

(406) 541-3873
Glenn A. Hladik, M.S.
Lee Frantz Oines, M.A.
Jamie Small, M.A.

Members of the House,

January 21, 2011

This letter is in reference to SB 132. I am an audiologist working in an ENT practice in Missoula. I believe there will be ramifications to this bill that need to be addressed.

I agree audiologists are fully qualified to dispense hearing aids through their education, training, and certification. They should not be required to hold both licenses.

My concern about this bill is once the audiologists are no longer required to have a hearing aid dispensers license, the number of hearing aid licensees will drop significantly. At this point, it will be cost prohibitive to keep this board alive. Part of the reason this board has such high costs is due to the number of consumer complaints received. I am worried if this board is no longer viable, these consumer complaints will not have the review and oversight necessary. This may lead to some dispensers taking advantage of this situation and pushing the limits of the law.

Please keep this in mind when looking at this bill.

Sincerely,

Lee Frantz Oines, MA

Audiologist

From: Susan Kalarchik (bcheating@yahoo.com)

To: scnbales@wbaccess.net; Joebalyeat@yahoo.com; gbarkus@gmail.com; Grt3177@smtel.com; blacks@3rivers.net; Garybranae@gmail.com; senatorbrenden@gmail.com; brown.roy@bresnan.net; Taylor@northernbroadcasting.com; John@senatorjohn.net; cooneyemail@aol.com; aubyna@interbel.net; Nancron@aol.com; johnesp2001@yahoo.com; jeff@jeffessmann.com; Steve.gallus@gmail.com; gebby@midrivers.com; Glonky@aol.com; Wranglergallery@hotmail.com; hansen_kenneth@email.com; R_hawks@imt.net; ghinklesd7@gmail.com; vjack@centurytel.net; larry@imt.net; csjuneau@3rivers.net; Kaufmann@mt.net; ricklaible@aol.com; Cliff@larsenusa.com; Jesselaz@yahoo.com; davelewis@aol.com; Lyndamoss@imt.net; perrysd35@aol.com; jpranch@mtintouch.net; Ripleys@3rivers.net; trudischmidt@q.com; jschockley@mt.gov; sqigs@msn.com; Donstein@midrivers.com; apsaalookewomen@yahoo.com; rstory@mt.gov; joestro@q.com; tropila@mt.net; Tutvedt@montanasky.us; daveew@gmail.com; Cwilliams@montanadsl.net; Windyboy_j@yahoo.com; ryan@zinkeforsenate.com;

Date: Mon, January 17, 2011 6:33:22 PM

Cc:

Subject: SUPPORT SB132 short title, allows audiologists to sell hearing aids without a seperate hearing aid license

Dear Senators:

Please SUPPORT SB132. I am a Doctor of Audiology (AuD) in MT and am required to hold a license with the MT State Board of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists as well as a license with the MT Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers. Rules and regs currently state that all people selling a hearing aid need a license to do so, although there are no considerations for an audiologist. As an Au.D., I have my doctorate in audiology (8 years of college) and all yearly continuing education credits necessary to maintain licensure. A hearing aid dispenser is only required to have a high school diploma and minimal training. The cost of an audiology license is \$100 per year to renew and the hearing aid dispensing license is now up to \$650.00 to renew. I am required to be licensed with both boards. SB132 will allow qualified audiologists to only be licensed with our main board of SLP and AUDS while being allowed to dispense hearing aids in MT. We would still have to continue obtaining all necessary training and continuing ed credits, as always. Thank you so much for your time and consideration in this very important matter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Kalarchik, Au.D.

Doctor of Audiology

BC Hearing, Butte

406-494-3995



The University of
Montana

Phyllis J. Washington
College of Education and Human Sciences
Communicative Sciences and Disorders
RiteCare Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic
634 Eddy Ave
Missoula, MT 59812-6695
406 243-2405 Clinic 406 243-2363 Academic

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State of Montana Bill SB-132

"AN ACT PROVIDING THAT A LICENSED AUDIOLOGIST SELLING, DISPENSING, OR FITTING HEARING AIDS IS NOT SUBJECT TO LICENSURE AS A HEARING AID DISPENSER; GRANTING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY TO THE BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 37-15-102, 37-15-103, 37-16-103, 8 37-16-401, AND 37-16-405, MCA."

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Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Al Yonovitz, PhD, CCC-A, Licensure Montana
Professor of Audiology